



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6250.0.25.002 - Microdata: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2010

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Introduction



INTRODUCTION

This product provides a range of information about the release of microdata from the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, Australia, November 2010 including details about the survey methodology, and how to use the CURF and the TableBuilder. Data item lists and information on the conditions of use and the quality of the microdata as well as the definitions used are also provided.

Microdata are the most detailed information available from a survey and are generally the responses to individual questions on the questionnaire or data derived from two or more questions and are released with the approval of the Australian Statistician.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS

The following microdata products are available from this survey:

- Expanded CURF via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL)
- TableBuilder is an online tool for creating tables and graphs and can be accessed via the ABS website.

Further information about these services, and other information to assist users in understanding and accessing microdata in general, is available from the Microdata Entry Page on the ABS website.

Before you apply for access, users should read and familiarise themselves with the information contained in this product and the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs.

APPLY FOR ACCESS

To apply for access to the Expanded CURF, register and apply in MiCRO.
To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in Registration Centre.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the survey and the microdata products can be found in this product:

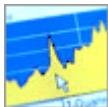
- A detailed list of data items for the Expanded CURF and the TableBuilder is available on the Downloads tab
- The Quality Declaration, Abbreviations and Glossary relating to these products can be found in the Explanatory Notes tab
- Other related products can be found on the Related Information tab.

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Data obtained in the survey but not contained on the CURF or able to be constructed from the TableBuilder may be available from the ABS, on request, as statistics in tabulated form.

Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, special tabulations can be produced incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements. These are available on request, on a fee for service basis. Contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or client.services@abs.gov.au for further information.

Survey methodology



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

SURVEY DESIGN

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RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

Scope

The statistics in this CURF were compiled from data collected in the CORMS, conducted throughout Australia in November 2010 as part of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The MPS consists of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and supplementary surveys.

The publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about interviewing which are relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

The scope of the survey is restricted to people aged 15 years and over who were usual residents of private dwellings and excludes:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the Census of Population and Housing and estimated resident populations;
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

In 2010, CORMS was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded people living in Indigenous communities in very remote parts of Australia. Previous cycles of this survey excluded all persons living in very remote areas.

Coverage

The records in this CURF relate to persons covered by the survey enumerated in November 2010. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

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SURVEY DESIGN

The survey was conducted as a supplementary to the LFS. After sample loss, the sample included 47,099 respondents. Of these, 2,650 records were obtained from recent migrants or temporary residents.

Supplementary surveys are not conducted using the full LFS sample. The sample for the CORMS was seven-eighths of the LFS sample.

DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

Information was collected through interviews conducted over a two-week period during November 2010. Interviews were mainly conducted over the phone with some conducted face-to-face. Information was obtained from one responsible adult present on each visa application in the household. For example, consider a household with three usual residents where two were listed together on one visa application and the other person listed on a separate visa application. In this case, two people in the household would have provided information, one for each visa application.

All interviews were conducted using computer assisted interviewing (CAI).

WEIGHTING, ESTIMATION AND BENCHMARKING

As the survey was conducted on a sample of households in Australia, it is important to consider the method of sample selection when deriving estimates from the CURF. This is particularly important as a person's chance of selection in the survey varies depending on the state or territory of enumeration.

Weighting

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from the sample survey to infer results for the total in-scope population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each enumerated person. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

The first step in calculating weights for each person is to assign an initial weight which is equal to the inverse probability of being selected in the survey. For example, if the probability of a person being selected in the survey was one in 300, then the person would have an initial weight of 300 (that is, they represent 300 persons in the population).

Estimation

Survey estimates of counts of persons are obtained by summing the weights of persons with the characteristic of interest. Estimates of non-person counts (e.g. days away from work) are obtained by multiplying the characteristics of interest with the weight of the reporting person and aggregating.

Benchmarking

The initial weights are calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks', in designated categories of state by area of usual residence by age by sex by labour force status and state by migrant status. Weights calibrated against population benchmarks ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population, rather than to the distribution within the sample itself. Calibration to population benchmarks helps to compensate for over or under-enumeration of particular categories of persons which may occur to either the random nature of sampling or non-response.

The survey was benchmarked to the estimated resident population aged 15 and over years living in private dwellings and non-institutionalised special dwellings in each state and territory. People living in Indigenous communities in very remote parts of Australia were

excluded. The process of weighting ensures that the survey estimates conform to persons benchmarks per state, part of state, age, sex, labour force status and migrant status. These benchmarks are produced from estimates of the resident population derived independently of the survey.

Due to differences in scope and sample size between this supplementary survey and that of the LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS.

For further information, see the Explanatory Notes in the publication Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0).

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RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

All sample surveys are subject to error which can be broadly categorised as either sampling error or non-sampling error.

Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the total population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably measured as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Non-sampling error can occur at any stage throughout the survey process. For example, persons selected for the survey may not respond (non-response); survey questions may not be clearly understood by the respondent; responses may be incorrectly recorded by interviewers; or there may be errors when coding or processing the survey data.

Sampling error

One measure of the likely difference between an estimate derived from a sample of persons and the value that would have been produced if all persons in scope of the survey had been included, is given by the Standard Error (SE) which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of persons was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that the sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all persons had been enumerated and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

Another measure of the likely difference is the Relative Standard Error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate. Generally, only estimates (numbers, percentages, means and medians) with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. In ABS publications, estimates with an RSE of 25% to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *15.7) to indicate that the estimate should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs over 50% are indicated by a double asterisk (e.g. **2.8) and should be considered unreliable for most purposes. The formula for calculating the RSE of an estimate (y) is:

$$RSE(y) = SE(y)/y \times 100\%$$

In addition to the main weight (as outlined earlier), each record on the CURF also contains 30 'replicate weights'. The purpose of these replicate weights is to enable the calculation of the sample error on each estimate produced.

The basic concept behind the replication approach is to select different sub-samples repeatedly (30 times) from the whole sample. For each of these sub-samples the statistic of interest is calculated. The variance of the full sample statistic is then estimated using the variability among the replicate statistics calculated from these sub-samples. As well as

enabling variances of estimates to be calculated relatively simply, replicate weights also enable unit record analyses such as chi-square and logistic regression to be conducted which take into account the sample design. Further information about RSEs and how they are calculated can be referenced in the 'Technical Note' section of the following publication relevant to this CURF: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0). RSEs for estimates in the tables published in this publication are available in spreadsheet format, as attachments to this publication.

Non-sampling error

One of the main sources of non-sampling error is non-response by persons selected in the survey. Non-response occurs when persons cannot or will not co-operate, or cannot be contacted. Non-response can affect the reliability of results and can introduce a bias. The magnitude of any bias depends upon the rate of non-response and the extent of the difference between the characteristics of those persons who responded to the survey and those that did not.

Every effort was made to reduce non-response and other non-sampling errors in CORMS to a minimum by careful design and testing of the questionnaire, training and supervision of interviewers, and undertaking extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

One advantage of the CAI technology used to conduct interviews is that it potentially reduces non-sampling error by enabling edits to be applied as the data are being collected. The interviewer is alerted immediately if information entered into the computer is either outside the permitted range for a particular question, or contradictory to information previously recorded during the interview. These edits allow the interviewer to query respondents and resolve issues during the interview. CAI sequencing of questions is also automated so that respondents are only asked relevant questions and in the appropriate order, thereby eliminating interviewer sequencing errors.

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File structure



FILE STRUCTURE

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STANDARD ERRORS

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MULTI-RESPONSE FIELDS

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WEIGHTS AND ESTIMATION

As the survey was conducted on a sample of households in Australia, it is important to take account of the method of sample selection when deriving estimates. This is particularly important as a person's chance of selection in the survey varied depending on the state or territory in which they lived. Survey 'weights' are values which indicate how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

There is one weight provided: a person weight. This should be used when analysing data at the person level.

Where estimates are derived, it is essential that they are calculated by adding the weights of persons in each category, and not just by counting the number of records falling into each category. If each person's 'weight' were to be ignored, then no account would be taken of a person's chance of selection in the survey or of different response rates across population groups, with the result that counts produced could be seriously biased. The application of weights ensures that the person estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex, state/territory, part of state and labour force status.

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STANDARD ERRORS

Each record on the person level also contains 30 replicate weights and, by using these weights, it is possible to calculate standard errors for weighted estimates produced from the microdata. This method is known as the 30 group Jack-knife variance estimator.

Under the Jackknife method of replicate weighting, weights were derived as follows:

- 30 replicate groups were formed with each group formed to mirror the overall sample (where units from a collection district all belong to the same replicate group and a unit can belong to only one replicate group)
- one replicate group was dropped from the file and then the remaining records were weighted in the same manner as for the full sample
- records in that group that were dropped received a weight of zero.

This process was repeated for each replicate group (i.e. a total of 30 times). Ultimately each record had 30 replicate weights attached to it with one of these being the zero weight.

Replicate weights enable variances of estimates to be calculated relatively simply. They also enable unit records analyses such as chi-square and logistic regression to be conducted which take into account the sample design. Replicate weights for any variable of interest can be calculated from the 30 replicate groups, giving 30 replicate estimates. The distribution of this set of replicate estimates, in conjunction with the full sample estimate (based on the general weight) is then used to approximate the variance of the full sample.

To obtain the standard error of a weighted estimate y , the same estimate is calculated using each of the 30 replicate weights. The variability between these replicate estimates (denoting $y_{(g)}$ for group number g) is used to measure the standard error of the original weighted estimate y using the formula:

$$RSE(y) = SE(y)y \times 100\%$$

where:

g = the replicate group number

$y_{(g)}$ = the weighted estimate, having applied the weights for replicate group g

y = the weighted estimate from the sample.

The 30 group Jack-knife method can be applied not just to estimates of the population total,

but also where the estimate y is a function of estimates of the population total, such as a proportion, difference or ratio. For more information on the 30 group Jack-knife method of SE estimation, see Research Paper: Weighting and Standard Error Estimation for ABS Household Surveys (Methodology Advisory Committee), July 1999 (cat. no. 1352.0.55.029).

Use of the 30 group Jack-knife method for complex estimates, such as regression parameters from a statistical model, is not straightforward and may not be appropriate. The method as described does not apply to investigations where survey weights are not used, such as in unweighted statistical modelling.

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NOT APPLICABLE CATEGORIES

Most data items included in the microdata include a 'Not applicable' category. The classification value of the 'Not applicable' category, where relevant, are shown in the data item lists in the Downloads tab.

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MULTI-RESPONSE FIELDS

A number of questions included in the survey allowed respondents to provide one or more responses. Each response category for one of these 'multi-response questions' (or data items) is basically treated as a separate data item. These data items have the same general data item identifier (SASName) but are each suffixed with a letter – A for the first response, B for the second response, C for the third response, D for the fourth response and so on.

For example, the multi-response data item 'All sources of household income' (with a general SASName of ALLINCU – see data item list), has six response categories. Consequently, six data items have been produced - ALLINCUA, ALLINCUB, ALLINCUC, ALLINCUD and ALLINCUE.

Each data item in the series (i.e. ALLINCUA-- ALLINCUE) will have two response codes: A 'Yes' response (for the first in the series (code 1), for the second in the series (code 2) etc.) and a 'Null' response (code 0) indicating that the response was not relevant for the respondent. The last data item in the series will represent a 'Not Applicable' response (i.e. value of last character in series) which comprises the respondents not asked the questions (e.g. ALLINCUE with values of 0 or 5).

It should be noted that the sum of individual multi-response categories will be greater than the population or number of people applicable to the particular data item as respondents are able to select more than one response. Multi-response data items can be identified in the data item list as SASNames followed by a range of letters in brackets; for example, ALLINCU(A-E).

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POPULATIONS

The population relevant to each data item is identified in the data item list and should be borne in mind when extracting and analysing data from the CURF or in TableBuilder. The actual population count for each data item is equal to the total cumulative frequency minus the 'Not applicable' category.

Generally all populations, including very specific populations, can be 'filtered' using other relevant data items. For example, if the population of interest is 'Employed persons', any data item with that population (excluding the 'Not applicable' category) can be used.

For example, the CURF data items 'Status in employment' (EMPSTCUR) or 'Industry (ANZSIC 2006)' (INDA06EC) are applicable to employed persons only. Therefore, either of the following filters could be used when restricting a table to 'Employed persons' only:

EMPSTCUR > 0 or INDA06EC < 26

(Note: For those data items, the 'Not applicable' categories (i.e. those persons who are not employed) are codes 0 and 26 respectively and would be excluded from either population filter shown above.)

Conversely, code 1 for the data items 'Labour force status' (LFSCURF) is 'employed persons'. Therefore, once again if the population of interest is employed persons, this data item could be used as the filter (i.e. LFSCURF = 1).

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Using the CURF



USING THE CURF

ABOUT THE CURF

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ABOUT THE CURF

The data included in the CORMS 2010 CURF are released under the provisions of the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**. This legislation allows the Australian Statistician to release unit record data, or microdata, provided that it is done "in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation to which it relates".

The ABS ensures confidentiality of the data by:

- removing name, address and any other information that might uniquely identify an individual
- changing a small number of values - particularly unusual values - and removing very unusual records
- controlling the detail available for all records on the CURF
- excluding some data items that were collected
- controlling the modes of access and restrict access to more detailed data
- placing restrictions on how the data are used, supported by both information in the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs, the undertaking signed by the head of each organisation and the terms and conditions signed by each user.

As a result, data on the CURF will not exactly match other previously published estimates. Any changes to the distribution of values are not significant and the statistical validity of aggregate data is not affected.

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IDENTIFIERS

Each person has a unique random identifier - ABSPID.

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CURF FILE NAMES

The 2010 Expanded CURF can be accessed on the RADL or ABSDL and is available in SAS, SPSS and STATA formats. The CURF comprises the following files:

Data files

- CORMS10E.csv contains the data for the CURF in Microsoft Excel format
- CORMS10E.sav contains the data for the CURF in SPSS format
- CORMS10E.dta contains the data for the CURF in STATA format

Information files

- The Data item list contains all the data items, including details of categories and code values, that are available on the Expanded CURF.

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COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS CURFS

Previous information on each of these topics was reported in:

Microdata: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF Australia Nov 2007 (cat. no. 6250.0.25.002).

Similar information was also collected in 1993, 1996, 1999 and 2004, however, due to the different methodologies used in the earlier surveys, and major collection differences, comparisons can only be made between 2010 and 2007 data.

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Using the TableBuilder



USING THE TABLEBUILDER

INTRODUCTION

For general information relating to the TableBuilder or instructions on how to use features of the TableBuilder product, please refer to the User Manual: TableBuilder, 2011 (cat. no. 1406.0.55.005).

Information relating to survey methodologies, such as the counting units and weights applied to the TableBuilder dataset, are explained in the Survey methodology section.

The TableBuilder dataset contains all of the person level data applicable to the SEW. Information on the structure is provided in the File structure section.

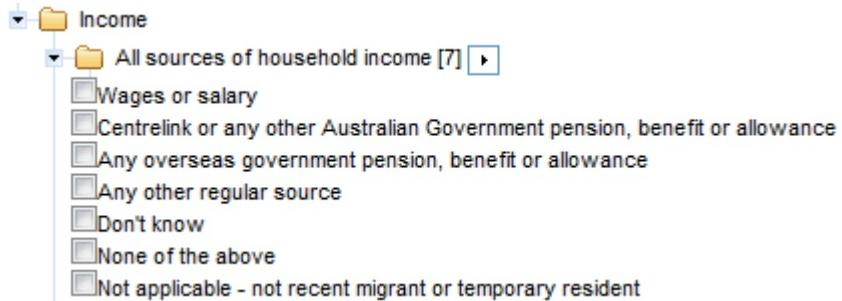
USING THE DATA

Counting units and weights

Population estimates of Persons can be obtained from the 2010 CORMS TableBuilder. When producing tables in TableBuilder, the summation option or counting unit will automatically be added to the table.

Multiple response data items

A number of data items produced from the survey allow a respondent to fall into multiple categories. These are referred to as multiple response data items. An example is shown below.



When a multiple response data item is tabulated, a person is counted against each response they have provided (e.g. a person who receives wages or salary, Centrelink payment and any other regular source will be counted one time in each of those three categories).

Similar to a single response data item, a person not within the appropriate population will fall into the 'Not applicable' category (e.g. a person who is not a recent migrant or temporary resident and is therefore considered 'Not applicable' to that data item).

A category exists for persons who are in scope of the population but did not provide a valid response to any other categories (e.g. a person who does not receive income from any of the above sources will fall into the category 'None of the above').

As a result, each person in the appropriate population is counted at least once, while some persons are counted multiple times. The total for multiple response data items is therefore greater than or equal to the sum of its components. In the example below, the sum of the components is 1,573.8, whereas the total is 1209.9.

All sources of household income

Counting: Number (in 000's) of Persons

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 7 (1 columns x 7 rows).

Counting	Number (in 000's) of Persons
All sources of household income   	
Wages or salary	1,065.5
Centrelink or any other Australian Government pension, benefit or allowance	284.5
Any overseas government pension, benefit or allowance	36.3
Any other regular source	157.8
Don't know	4.9
None of the above	24.8
Total	1,209.9

Field exclusion rules

Field exclusion rules exist when two or more data items cannot be added to the same table due to confidentiality risks within the data.

The CORMS TableBuilder does not contain any field exclusion rules.

Data item lists



DATA ITEM LISTS

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, November 2010 (CORMS) comprised a questionnaire. The questionnaire contained 10 modules and approximately 100 questions, which resulted in approximately 50 data items. Including data items obtained from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), there were approximately 80 data items on the SEW final file.

Users intending to purchase either the CURF or the TableBuilder should ensure that the data they require, and the level of detail they need, are available in these products.

CURF Data

The CORMS Expanded CURF contains 47,099 confidentialised respondent records from the survey. Subject to the limitations of the sample size and the data classifications used, it is possible to interrogate the CURF, product tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

The CURF file contains 60 data items. A list of data items available for use with the CURF, including relevant population and classification details, can be found on the Downloads tab.

For a complete list of all data items included on the CURF, refer to the Excel spreadsheet in the Downloads tab. The data item spreadsheet has 10 worksheets:

- table of content
- population descriptions
- data items on demographic characteristics
- data items on labour force characteristics
- data items on migrant characteristics
- data items on visa status characteristics
- data items on education characteristics
- data items on employment characteristics
- data items on income characteristics
- identifiers and weights.

The data item list provides a code to all populations used in the derivations of the data items and each data item has a code associated with it to enable users to link between the two worksheets.

TableBuilder Data

The CORMS TableBuilder file also contains 47,099 confidentialised respondent records from the survey. Data items are generally available for cross tabulation using the TableBuilder, although some restrictions may apply.

The TableBuilder file contains 72 data items. A list of data items available for use with the TableBuilder, including relevant population and classification details, can be found on the Downloads tab.

For a complete list of all data items included on the TableBuilder, refer to the Excel spreadsheet in the Downloads tab. The data item spreadsheet has 9 worksheets:

- table of content
- population descriptions
- data items on demographic characteristics
- data items on labour force characteristics
- data items on migrant characteristics
- data items on visa status characteristics
- data items on education characteristics
- data items on employment characteristics
- data items on income characteristics

The populations worksheet provides a code to all populations used in the derivations of the data items and each data item has a code associated with it to enable users to link between the two worksheets.

Conditions of use



CONDITIONS OF USE

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

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USER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Census and Statistics Act includes a legislative guarantee to respondents that their confidentiality will be protected. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is in turn fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering ABS questionnaires. For more information, see 'Avoiding inadvertent disclosure' and 'Microdata' on our web page How the ABS keeps your information confidential.

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CURF DATA

The release of the CURF data is authorised by Clause 7 of the Statistics Determination made under subsection 13(1) of the Census and Statistics Act 1905. The release of a CURF must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation.

This legislation allows the Australian Statistician to approve release of unit record data. All CURFs released have been approved by the Statistician. Prior to being granted access to CURFs, each organisation's Responsible Officer must submit a CURF Undertaking to the ABS. The CURF Undertaking is required by legislation and states that, prior to CURFs being released to an organisation, a Responsible Officer must undertake to ensure that the organisation will abide by the conditions of use of CURFs. Individual users are bound by the undertaking signed by the Responsible Officer.

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the conditions and restrictions in the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs. Any breach of the CURF Undertaking may result in withdrawal of service to individuals and/or organisations. Further information is contained in the Consequences of Failing to Comply web page.

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TABLEBUILDER

In accordance with the Census and Statistics Act 1905, data in TableBuilder are subjected to a confidentiality process before release. The release of microdata must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation.

This confidentiality process is applied to avoid releasing information that may lead to the identification of individuals, families, households, dwellings or businesses.

Prior to being granted access to TableBuilder, users must agree to the following ABS Terms and Conditions of TableBuilder Access:

- understand that the ABS has taken great care to ensure that the information on the

- survey output record file is correct and as accurate as possible and understand that ABS does not guarantee, or accept any legal liability whatsoever arising from, or connected to, the use of any material contained within, or derived from TableBuilder
- understand that all data extracted from the Survey Output Record File through TableBuilder will be confidentialised prior to being supplied and that as a result, no reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment, respondent and processing errors
 - users inform the ABS, through their Contact Officer, upon leaving their organisation that your access is disabled
 - not to provide their TableBuilder user ID and password access to any other person or organisation.

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CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS Conditions of Sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be referred to intermediary.management@abs.gov.au.

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PRICE

Microdata access is priced according to the ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For details refer to ABS Pricing Policy on the ABS website. For microdata prices refer to the Microdata prices web page.

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HOW TO APPLY FOR ACCESS

Clients wishing to access the microdata should read the How to Apply for Microdata web page. Clients should familiarise themselves with the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs and other related microdata information which are available via the Microdata web pages, before applying for access through MiCRO.

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AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides participating universities with access to a range of ABS products and services. This includes access to microdata. For further information, university clients should refer to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement web page.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

The Microdata Entry page on the ABS website contains links to microdata related information to assist users to understanding and access microdata. For further information users should email microdata.access@abs.gov.au or telephone (02) 6252 7714.

About this Release

This Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) from the survey of Characteristics

of Recent Migrants provides statistics about migration category, country of birth, proficiency in spoken English, educational attainment on arrival and since arrival, employment prior to arrival and since arrival, and sources of household income.

Users are able to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their individual specifications. Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure integrity of data, optimise its content and maintain confidentiality of respondents. They include removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories.

The Expanded CURF is only available through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). A technical manual explaining data content, technical details and conditions of use is available through Technical Manual: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Australia, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0.55.001).

For information on applying for access to ABS CURFs, see the CURF Microdata Entry Page on the ABS website.

History of changes

This document was added or updated on 17/05/2012.

17 May 2012

The title of this product has changed to Microdata: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia to incorporate the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey TableBuilder. This product replaces the Technical Manual: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Australia (cat. no. 6250.0.55.001).

Explanatory Notes

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Australian citizen

Being an Australian citizen formalises a person's membership of the Australian community. It entitles a person to live permanently in Australia, hold an Australian passport and do such things as vote to elect Australia's governments, stand for parliament, work in the Public Service and serve in the armed forces. A person may acquire Australian citizenship in a number of ways, for example, by birth, adoption, descent, resumption or grant of Australian citizenship (naturalisation). Migrants no longer require a visa once citizenship is granted.

Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)

The ASCED is a national standard classification which includes all sectors of the Australian education system: that is, schools, vocational education and training, and higher education.

From 2001 ASCED replaced a number of classifications used in administrative and statistical systems, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics Classifications of Qualifications (ABSCQ). The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education. See Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0).

Balance of state

This area comprises the region outside the six state capital Statistical Divisions. The area includes the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

Capital city

This area comprises the Statistical Divisions of the six state capital cities which are defined in the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2010 (cat. no. 1216.0).

Centrelink or Job Network provider

A government or private agency that provides various kinds of support for people looking for work, to help them find and keep a job.

Certificate not further defined

Survey responses are coded to Certificate not further defined (n.f.d.) when there is not enough information to code them to Certificate I, II, III or IV in the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0), Level of Education classification.

Country of birth

Country of birth has been classified according to the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), Second Edition, 2008 (cat. no. 1269.0).

Employed

Persons who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job, business or farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employed full time

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 or more during the reference week.

Employed part time

Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Field of education

Field of education is defined as the subject matter of an educational activity. It is categorised according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0). Field of education classification.

Industry

From 2006 Industry has been classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (cat. no. 1292.0).

Level of highest non-school qualification

Level of highest non-school qualification identifies the highest qualification a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken.

It is categorised according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0) Level of Education classification.

Main applicant

The 'main applicant' is generally the person whose skills or proposed activities in Australia are assessed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) as part of the visa application. They will usually have been specifically identified on the application form as the 'main applicant'.

Main English-speaking countries

The list of main English-speaking countries (MESC) provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America. It is important to note that being from a non main English-speaking country does not imply a lack of proficiency in English.

Main field of non-school qualification

Main field of non-school qualification is defined as the subject matter of the qualification. It is categorised according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0) Field of Education classification.

Non-school qualification

Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Postgraduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be obtained concurrently with school qualifications.

Not in the labour force

Persons who were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.

Occupation

From 2006, occupation is classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition, 2006 (cat. no. 1220.0).

Permanent visa

The permission or authority granted by Australia for foreign nationals to live in Australia permanently.

Recent migrant

A person who was born overseas, who arrived in Australia after 2000, was aged 15 years or over on arrival, was not an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen on arrival, did not currently hold New Zealand citizenship, and has permanent Australian resident status.

Reference week

The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.

Status in employment

Employed people are classified according to whether they were employees, employers or own account workers.

Temporary visa

The permission or authority granted by Australia for foreign nationals to travel to Australia and stay up to a specified period of time. Temporary entrants include:

- tourists
- students
- business people
- people with specialist skills, such as managers, academics and medical practitioners
- people who make a social or cultural contribution to the community, such as entertainers, media and film staff, sports people, religious workers, visiting academics and public lecturers
- people who contribute to the development of international relations, such as participants in exchange programs and working holiday makers.

Type of visa as at November 2010

The visa the respondent held at the time of interview, that allowed them to stay in Australia.

Categories for type of visa as at November 2010 were:

- Permanent Skilled (Independent) - Independent skilled migrants are selected on the basis of their age, skills, qualifications, English language ability and employability, so that they can contribute quickly to the Australian economy.
- Permanent Skilled (Other/n.f.d.) - includes professionals and other skilled workers seeking work or business in Australia, other than Permanent Skilled (Independent).
- Permanent (Other/n.f.d.) - includes all other permanent visa categories (other than Skilled). This includes family visas (e.g. Partner, Child or Parent visa) and all Humanitarian and Refugee visas. Also includes where the type of permanent visa could not be determined.
- Temporary Student - people studying or seeking study, training or skills development in Australia and planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more.
- Temporary (Other/n.f.d.) - includes business visitors, tourists, working holiday makers and visitors planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more, or where the type of temporary visa could not be determined.

Type of visa on arrival to live in Australia

The visa the respondent held when they first arrived in Australia to live that allowed them to come to Australia. Categories for type of visa on arrival to live in Australia are defined as:

- Permanent Skilled (Independent) - Independent skilled migrants are selected on the basis of their age, skills, qualifications, English language ability and employability, so that they can contribute quickly to the Australian economy.
- Permanent Skilled (Other/n.f.d.) - includes professionals and other skilled workers seeking work or business in Australia, other than Permanent Skilled (Independent).
- Permanent Family (Partner) - includes Spouse, Prospective Marriage (Fiance(e)) and Interdependency visas.
- Permanent (Other n.f.d.) - includes all other permanent visa categories (other than Skilled and Family (Partner)). This includes other family visas (e.g. Child or Parent visa) and all Humanitarian and Refugee visas. Also includes where the type of permanent visa could not be determined.
- Temporary Student - people studying or seeking study, training or skills development in Australia and planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more.
- Temporary (Other/n.f.d.) - includes business visitors, tourists, working holiday makers and visitors planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more, or where the type of temporary visa could not be determined.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and;

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ABSDL	Australian Bureau of Statistics Data Laboratory
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
AQF	Australian Qualifications Framework
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
CAI	computer assisted interviewing
CURF	Confidentialised Unit Record File
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory
RSE	Relative Standard Error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SAS	Software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
SE	Standard Error
SPSS	Software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
STATA	Software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis

Quality declaration

QUALITY DECLARATION

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are released in accordance with the conditions specified in the Statistics Determination section of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 (CSA). This ensures that confidentiality is maintained whilst enabling micro level data to be released. More information on the confidentiality practices associated with CURFs can be found at the About CURF Microdata page.

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

Microdata from the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey are available as an Expanded CURF and in TableBuilder. The microdata contains information about a range of key indicators relating to migration characteristics and integration into the workforce for people who had arrived in Australia in the last ten years and were aged 15 years and over on arrival.

As a result of this survey being supplementary to the LFS, persons excluded from the LFS were also excluded from this survey (see Explanatory Notes of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for standard LFS exclusions). Additional exclusions from this survey were

persons born in New Zealand, persons holding New Zealand citizenship, those who held Australian citizenship prior to arrival and those intending to stay in Australia less than 12 months.

The type of information collected included socio-demographic characteristics (such as age, sex and birthplace), employment characteristics (such as labour force status, occupation and industry), educational qualifications obtained (such as level and field, both before coming to Australia to live and since arriving in Australia) and migration information (such as visa category and residency status on arrival to live in Australia and as at November 2010). New data items collected in 2010 included whether would have preferred to work longer hours in first job in Australia, main reason not actively looking for work and main language spoken on arrival.

The Australian Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0) was used to classify education. The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training and higher education. The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education.

For more information, see Microdata: Education and Work, Australia, May 2011 (cat. no. 6250.0.25.002).

TIMELINESS

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants CURF was collected in November 2010 as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Initial summary results from the survey were published on 24 May 2011 in the following publication: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0). The CURF was released on 20 September 2011. The TableBuilder was released on 17 May 2012.

ACCURACY

The microdata contains finer levels of detail of data items than what is otherwise published in other formats, for example, in Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6227.0). For more information on the level of detail provided, please see the associated data item lists.

Steps to confidentialise the data made available on the CURF are taken in such a way as to maximise the usefulness of the content while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents selected in the survey. As a result it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all the statistics produced from the microdata with other published statistics. Further information about the steps taken to confidentialise the microdata is available through the following links:

[CURF confidentiality](#)

[TableBuilder confidentiality](#)

COHERENCE

Results from the previous survey on this topic were published in Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0). Data on earlier topics can be found on the Past and Future Releases page or by contacting the Nation Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

While changes between 2004 and 2007 resulted in data not being comparable only minor development occurred for the 2010 survey. As such the 2007 and 2010 CURF survey results are comparable. For a more detailed discussion on the differences between the surveys see the Using the CURF page.

The Explanatory Notes section of Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0) provides more detailed information on the differences between the ABS Migrant surveys over time.

INTERPRETABILITY

The information within this product should be referred to when using the microdata. It contains information including Survey methodology, File structure, Using the CURF, Using the TableBuilder, Conditions of use and Data item lists.

The Explanatory Notes section of the Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0) includes information on survey objectives, survey methods and design, data quality and interpretation, output data items, information about the availability of results and comparability with previous surveys.

ACCESSIBILITY

Microdata products are available to approved users. Users wishing to access the microdata should read the How to apply for Microdata web page, before applying for access through MiCRO. Users should also familiarise themselves with information available via the Microdata web pages.

A full list of available microdata can be viewed via the List of Expected and available Microdata. More detail regarding types and modes of access to CURFs can be found on the CURF Access Modes and Levels of Detail web page.

CORMS 2010 can be accessed using TableBuilder. The Basic CURF can be accessed on CD-ROM, through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL).

Any questions regarding access to microdata can be forwarded to microdata.access@abs.gov.au or phone (02) 6252 7714.